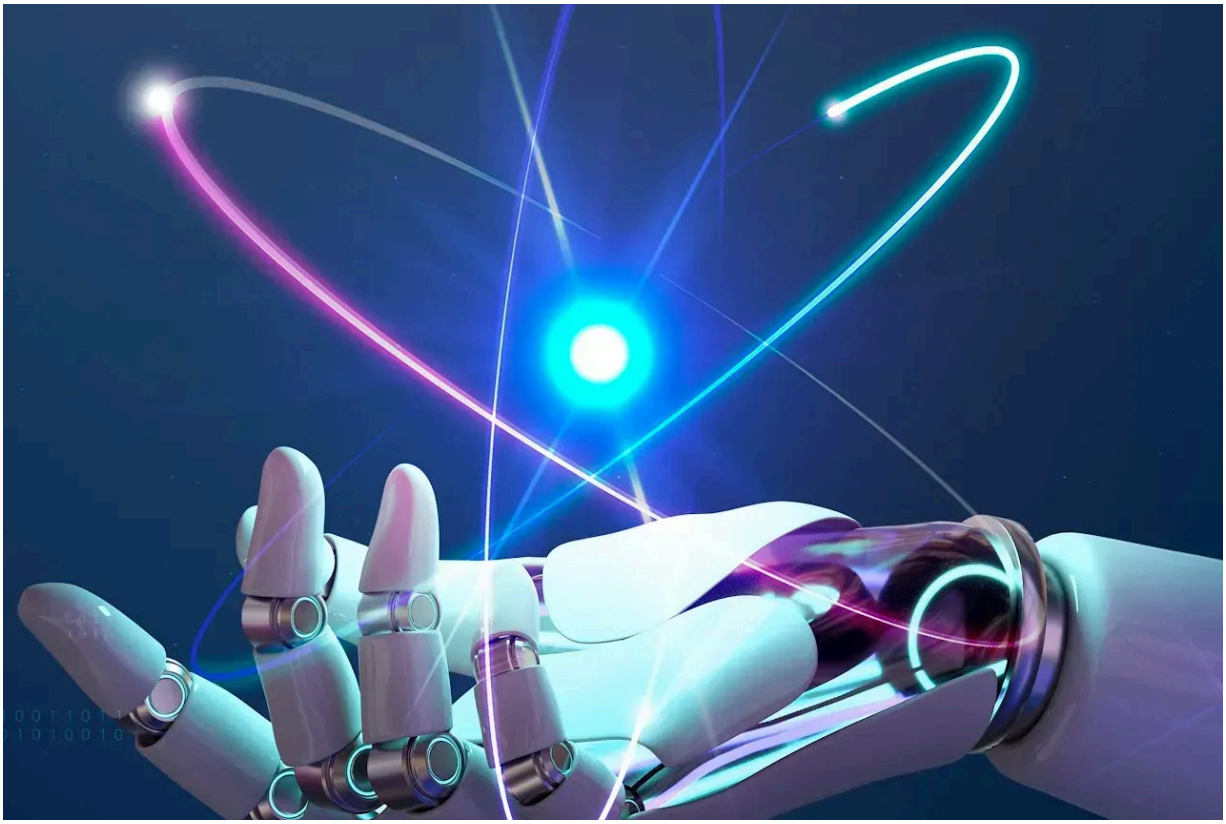
JENKS SCIENCE AND TECH TALKS — FEATURES

Science and Technology at the Jenks - air travel safety

JOYCE WESTNER | STAFF WRITER

July 24, 2024 . 4:38 PM — 2 min read



By Walter Hubbard, Ron Latanision, and John Brown

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While commercial air travel is an extremely safe mode of transp
accidents involving fire or explosion have occurred. Though very

infrequent, they can have catastrophic consequences.

These accidents are the driving force behind all safety recommendations by the National Transportation Safety Board, regulations by the Federal Aviation Administration, and adoptions by industry.

In this presentation, Dr. Albert Moussa answered the question, *How Safe are the Friendly Skies?*

Based on real-world examples, Moussa provided an overview of the main types of in-flight and post-crash fires involving aircraft engine, fuel tank, cabin and cargo compartments. He also gave examples of safety improvements of commercial aircraft and new challenges brought about by drones powered by electricity and hydrogen.

And he presented the highlights of a unique three-day professional engineering course on Aircraft Fire Hazards, Protection and Investigation that he teaches annually. This is a multi-media presentation illustrated with slides, computer model output and short video clips.

Moussa is the founder and technical director of BlazeTech Corp., a technology development and consulting company in the areas of safety, environment and energy. He specializes in combustion, fire, and explosion, working particularly for the aircraft and chemical industries.

Moussa has received coverage by the media, including the New York Times, CBS, BBC and several European journals for his work.

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2023-24 Wrap Up – The Future of the New England electric grid

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We wrapped up our current year of The Wilson Forum in June. Walter Hubbard moderated a discussion regarding the forum's focus in 2023-2024 on electric generation and associated environmental issues.

We discussed the reality of climate change and how to mitigate its effects by reducing fossil fuel use, thus reducing carbon dioxide production. We can help by switching to heat pumps and electric vehicles which can cut CO_2 production in half.

Yet to accomplish that over the next 25 years, the New England electric grid will see its winter peak demand triple from 20 GW today to almost 60 GW in 2050. (For reference, one nuclear power plant can produce about 1 GW of electric power.)

To help meet that demand in the short term, ISO New England, the entity that controls the grid, plans to bring on-line: 2 GW from off-shore wind farms, 1.2 GW from Hydro-Quebec and 1.2 GW from land-based wind farms in Maine.

In fact, right now, over 6 GW is produced by roof-top solar panels on a sunny day. To meet the longer-term demand, ISO-NE is looking at an additional 16 GW from off-shore wind farms, 12 GW from solar, and 18 GW from battery storage.

It is going to be expensive to reach these goals and our electricity rates will certainly increase. We discussed the consequences of shifting to renewable energy in terms of cost and of not shifting in terms of climate change. It is a question that we and our elected officials will be grappling with for the foreseeable future.

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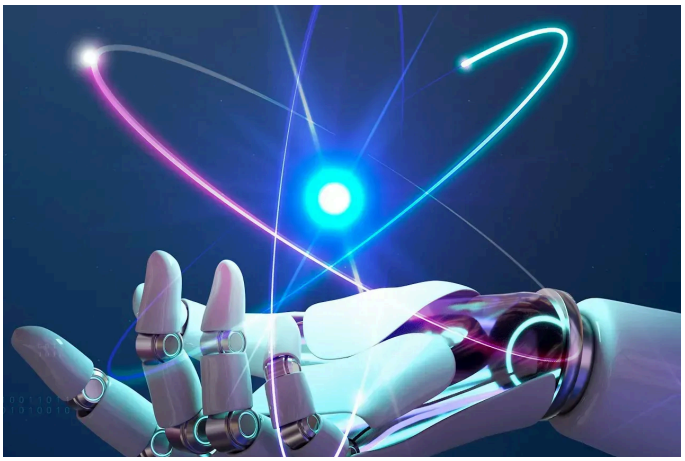


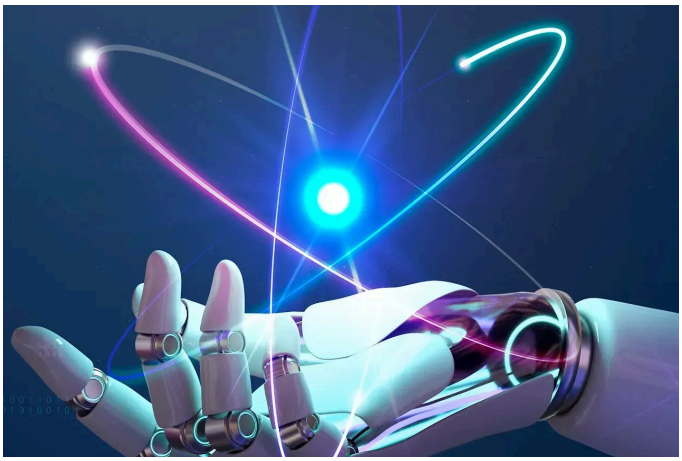
JENKS SCIENCE AND TECH TALKS

Jenks Science and Tech Talks - on truth and the purposes of government

By Ron Latanision and John Brown On November 14, author Joe Simonetta spoke about the truth, which is under siege in our contemporary world; and on November 28th Wilson Forum Historian Vincent Dixon spoke about a central debate of our time, the purposes and evolution of government. By Ron Latanision

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

December 11, 2025



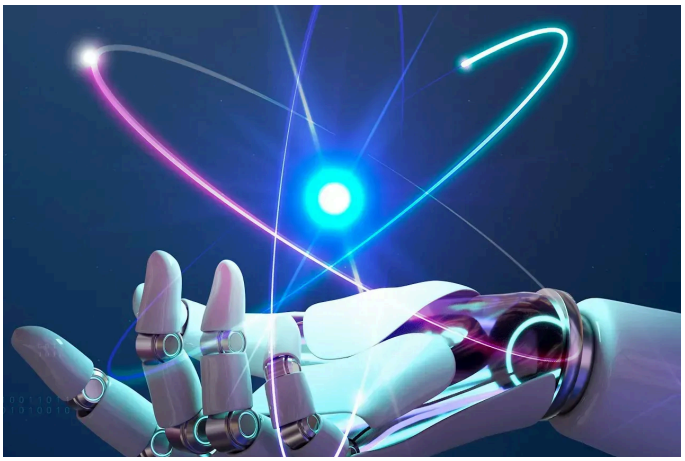
JENKS SCIENCE AND TECH TALKS

Jenks Science & Tech Talks discusses AI and spent nuclear waste

The Wilson Science & Technology Forum at The Jenks Center in Winchester By Ron Latanision and John Brown Tales from the AI Frontier On October 10, Dr. Eddie Robins spoke about the human-machine interface in the expanding presence of artificial intelligence (AI) in our lives. The rapidity with which AI

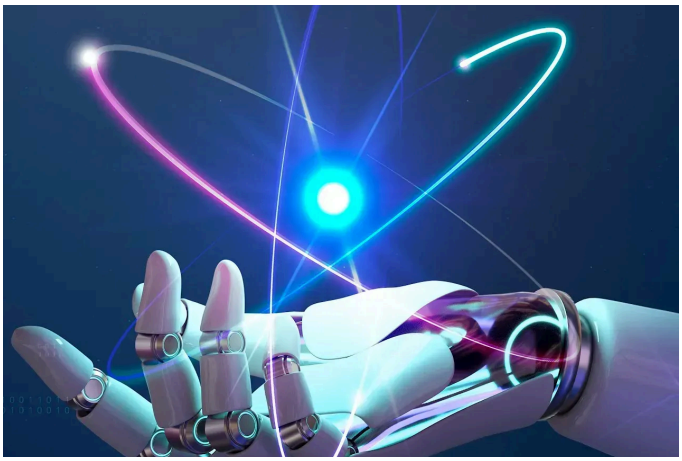
SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

November 15, 2025



JENKS SCIENCE AND TECH TALKS

Jenks Science and Technology Forum discusses managing risks



JENKS SCIENCE AND TECH TALKS

Science and Technol Jenks - AI talk and

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in emerging tech, plus quantum computers

By Ron Latanisian In September, Michael Garjian spoke about An Alternative to Corporate Capitalism in Managing the Socio-economic Risks of Emerging Technologies and Jagadeesh Moodera spoke about The Evolution of Quantum Computers An Alternative to Corporate Capitalism The introduction of any new technology into the marketplace and into our social

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

October 5, 2025

Superconductors

By Ron Latanision, John Brown, and Walter Hubbard In June, Marv Goldschmitt added the perspective of a technological philosopher to The Artificial Intelligence Revolution and Professor Amit Goyal spoke about High Temperature Superconductors Artificial Intelligence - Wrap Up for the 2024-2025 Forum Season On June 27, our season wrap-up, The

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

July 23, 2025

Latest

EVENTS

Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committ oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

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FEATURES

‘Chicago: Teen Edition’ dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

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